

Writer-in-residence an author for all kinds

Jamie Hanlon

Richard Van Camp may be the new writer-in-residence at the University of Alberta, but best not count him as a one-trick pony.

"I'm an air guitarist and an air drummer. I'm very good at it, but in the privacy of my own office, when I should be working," he says jokingly. "Don't be surprised if, when you walk by my office, you see me flailing."

An aficionado of a wide range of music, an avid reader, former doodler and one-time writing intern for CBC's *North of 60*, Van Camp's interests extend to collecting toys and photography as well. He's also currently involved in helping usher three of his projects to film.

If there is a theme here, it would seem to be one of creative expression. And when one speaks with Van Camp, it's hard not to miss the energy and the passion that reveals his creative spirit.

Born in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, and a member of the Dogrib First Nation, he credits his family and his experiences growing up that made him fearful of drugs and alcohol as the reasons for remaining, as he says, "innocent and youthful at heart."

"That's why I think I'm able to write baby books, comic books, children's books, as well as books for young adults and adults," said Van Camp.

His first book, *The Lesser Blessed*, was, he says, a five-year labour of love, a story he wrote because it was something he wanted to read. Yet, he says when it came out, the fear of success hit him—hard. He says schools can teach people how to write, but none can prepare them for what it feels like when their first book comes out.

"Suddenly you're open to judgment, you're open to blame," said Van Camp. "I was struck by that and was calling people, saying, 'don't buy the book, I've done something wrong.' I was terrified."

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U Cup tug o' war



Provost Carl Amrhein looks on as Liz Ingram and Brian Sykes have a light-hearted contest over who is going to hoist the U Cup at Celebrate! on Sept. 16

U Cup runneth over with two recipients named

Bev Betkowsky

Professors Liz Ingram and Brian Sykes each have 36 rewarding years teaching at the University of Alberta. Both have degrees from the U of A, and both are now University Cup winners.

Their respective fields of study are at opposite ends of the spectrum—Ingram teaches printmaking in the Faculty of Arts while Sykes teaches biochemistry in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry—but their common love of teaching and research has earned them the U of A's highest faculty honour.

Ingram, the 2011 University Cup recipient, and Sykes, the winner for 2010, were among outstanding faculty, students and staff being recognized at Celebrate!, the university's annual celebration of teaching, learning and research, on Sept. 16 at the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Both feel grateful to receive the award, and to be professors at the U of A. "I can't imagine a better place to be," Ingram said. "We have room to explore, try out new things and we

are surrounded by people who are passionate about what they are doing. Where would be a better place to work, teach and create?"

A Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Art & Design, Ingram earned her master's degree in visual art at the University of Alberta in 1975, after receiving an undergrad degree from York University. In the more than three decades since, she's been sharing her creative vision with U of A students, and helping them discover their own artistic passions.

"I think of my role as being that of a catalyst and facilitator, helping students discover their individual sensibilities, particular strengths and their most fruitful creative directions," she said. Through her teaching, she strives to shape confident, curious, empathetic and collaborative students who graduate from the U of A ready to go into all kinds of arts-related job fields.

"They have an open, flexible and empathetic spirit and a confidence in living with uncertainty—which is fundamental to growth."

Accepting, even embracing uncertainty, was one of life's lessons passed on through her late mother, who was the sole Holocaust survivor of her family, Ingram said.

"My mom loved life and lived in the moment. It was contagious to everyone who knew her."

Ingram is also deeply inspired by her 100-year-old father, an appreciative scholar of music

who introduced his children to the wonders of other cultures by installing his family in India, where Ingram went to school as a girl, after her birth in Argentina.

Witnessing both the majesty and the cruel contrasts between beauty and poverty of New Delhi was something Ingram never forgot. "We are part of something much bigger than ourselves as human beings."

Ingram works to weave that philosophy into her research, which takes the form of her multi-layered studio creations. Using methods and materials ranging from lithography to digital media, she focuses her work on water and the human form, which she says are "metaphors for human existence and the element of something much bigger."

"I want to express an idea of our connection with our environment and nature."

Over the years, Ingram has garnered several awards for her research, including her Distinguished University Professor, the Gordon J. Kaplan Award for Research Excellence and a Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada. Her work has been exhibited all over North America, South America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia and has been acquired by several universities, museums and collectors in Canada. Her latest installation can be seen at Calgary's Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

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ALS attacks on all fronts

Raquel Maurier

Sanjay Karla has found evidence that ALS affects more than just the motor cortex.

Recently published studies by the researcher in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry demonstrate that Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis—commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease—damages neurons in parts of the brain responsible for cognition and behaviour.

The disease is a fatal neurodegenerative disease that eventually leaves patients unable to move, breathe or swallow. Previous research has shown about 50 per cent of patients with ALS also have mild cognitive and behavioural changes, but between five and 15 per cent of patients can have severe changes resulting in dementia. In Canada, between 2,500 and 3,000 people live with the disease. Most die within two to five years of diagnosis.

Sanjay Kalra, a researcher in the faculty's Division of Neurology and a practising neurologist, has published two papers this year in the *American Journal of Neuroradiology* providing evidence that ALS affects more than just the motor cortex, the part of the brain responsible for motor function.

"ALS was previously thought to be a disease restricted to the motor system causing only weakness," says Kalra, the principal investigator in both peer-reviewed papers. "But a significant proportion of people with this disease also have cognitive and behavioural changes. We wanted to know how it was affecting other parts of the brain to cause these symptoms."

"There is increasing evidence from pathological studies of ALS patients post-mortem that not just the motor system is involved. Our research supports this and demonstrates in those living with ALS, that the disease is indeed attacking other parts of the brain. The cognitive and behavioural changes we are seeing in patients are not reactive," he says. "They are

not happening because someone is depressed or doesn't have initiative because he is weak. Those changes are happening because there are biological and chemical changes in parts of the brain that are responsible for behaviour and cognition."

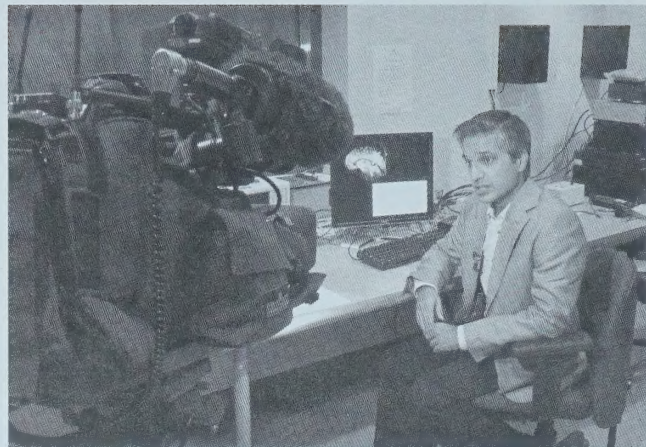
Kalra uses magnetic resonance imaging, or MRIs, not to just look at pictures of the brain, but also as a means of measuring the levels of various chemicals in the brain. In his most recently published paper, he looked at two different chemicals called NAA and mIns. NAA is known as a neural marker, which means it is only found in neurons, while levels of mIns increase when there is abnormal scarring in the brain.

"If NAA is decreased, it means neurons have died or they are not working. Many papers have shown NAA to be decreased in regions where you expect it to be decreased with ALS—the motor cortex. But our recent study shows that these levels are also decreasing in areas of the brain responsible for cognition and behaviour," says Kalra.

Kalra would like to continue his research using MRIs to track the changes in the brain of those who have ALS, and to evaluate new drugs. Kalra is the leading researcher in Canada to use MRIs to study ALS. In November 2010, he was invited to give a presentation at Oxford University, and earlier this year he collaborated with a number of international researchers to write a commentary piece in *Lancet Neurology* about this growing area of research.

He first became interested in studying ALS when he was a neurology resident looking for a research project using MRIs. He has continued studying the disease ever since.

Funding for this research was provided by the University Hospital Foundation, the MSI Foundation of Alberta, the ALS Society of Canada, the ALS Association of America, and the Shelly Mrkonjic ALS Research Fund. ■



Sanjay Karla has found evidence that ALS affects more than just the motor cortex.

UAPS recognized among the best

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta's excellent safety record on campus has been formally recognized, thanks to certification by the continent's tops accreditation commission.

This summer, University of Alberta Protective Services became the first Canadian university peace officer agency to be awarded accredited status by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

"When we look at the police organizations we interact with, it is both the Edmonton Police Service and the Camrose Police Service, both of which are accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies," said Bill Mowbray, director of UAPS. "We need to hold ourselves to their same high standards so that our university community can have the same level of confidence."

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of some of the top law-enforcement executive associations. Mowbray says the original purpose of the agency's accreditation programs was to set modern standards for policing across North America. That mandate evolved to include policing on campuses in the United States and, thanks to the U of A's Protective Services in Canada.

Mowbray says Protective Services has spent the last three years doing the demanding work of gaining this accreditation, which included re-examining hundreds of policies, directives, practices and procedures. Accreditors came to campus with a checklist of more than 300 items that included everything from examination of protocol around typical safety matters and emergency preparedness to how Protective Services handles everything from exhibits to complaints against an officer.

And while UAPS was under no obligation to seek this accreditation, Mowbray says the benefits of undergoing the accreditation are many, ranging from ensuring that Protective Services exceeds government-imposed standards, to helping with recruitment to strengthening accountability in the community.

"I have always spoke of this accreditation in terms of community confidence," said Mowbray. "The university can have the confidence that Protective Services holds itself to absolutely the highest and most modern law-enforcement standards in the business." ■

Liz Ingram and Brian Sykes named U Cup recipients at Celebrate!

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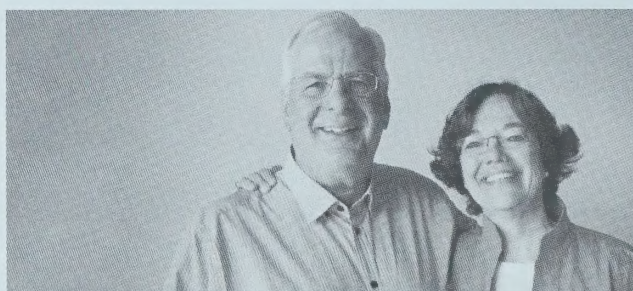
Sykes, a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, has built a synergy with students that has powered his teaching and research throughout his many years at the U of A.

"To be given an intellectual challenge every day is marvelous," he said.

Raised in Alberta, Sykes graduated with an honours degree in chemistry from the U of A in 1965 before heading to Stanford University, where he earned his PhD, then became an assistant and associate professor of chemistry at Harvard University from 1969–1975, before returning to the U of A.

He started out as an associate professor of biochemistry, and over the years, added to an ever-growing list of accomplishments, including serving as department chair, Canada Research Chair in Structural Biology, as a visiting researcher at the University of California, and, most recently, as a visiting professor at King's College in London.

His accolades include a Distinguished University Professorship, the Gordin J. Kaplan Award for Research Excellence, a McCalla Research Profes-



Professors Brian Sykes and Liz Ingram. (Photo by Richard Siemans)

sorship, and a Fellowship in the Royal Society (London).

Along the way, Sykes took time to build rapport with his students, a treasured concept that lies at the heart of his teaching philosophy. He often works evenings and weekends to make himself available to his students, and actively works with graduate students in his nearby lab.

Collaboration binds them as a team and together, they explore new ideas, Sykes said.

"We are intertwined with the re-

search. We learn together. The greatest thing I can do is write a paper that also has a student's name on it."

Early in his career, Sykes realized that he could learn from his students, as well as teach them.

"I look for students to outstrip me in research creativity."

Brian Sykes

"The students are all different and will take things in their own direction, based on their own talents. They add to the equation and this moves our team off in new directions and we follow our noses. Our research really is a collective effort."

And when his students eventually

graduate and move on, "I look for them to outstrip me in research creativity," Sykes said.

That is no easy task, given his own sterling record of scientific exploration into the mysteries of protein structure. The author of 480 published papers, Sykes studies the structural biology of proteins in human muscle. By focusing on what happens to proteins during a heart attack, for instance, Sykes hopes he and his researchers can help influence smarter drug design.

While conducting his life's work, he tries to set an example of excellence for his students, something he was inspired by as a young faculty member at Harvard University. "I learned the meaning of what it is to be world class. People tend to toss the word around, but sitting in a faculty meeting with Nobel Prize winners, I learned what a world-class standard really was."

Deeply gratified by his career at the U of A, Sykes considers himself lucky to be a professor here.

"I'm more than fortunate to be able to have a job I like to do, that stimulates intellectually for the whole of my life. After 36 years, I still like coming to work in the morning." ■

Expert calls for change in trans-fat labelling

Michel Prox

Not all trans fats are created equal and it's time for nutritional labels to reflect that reality, says a University of Alberta nutrition expert.

According to a scientific review conducted by Spencer Proctor, along with Canadian and international colleagues, natural trans fats produced by ruminant animals such as dairy and beef cattle are not detrimental to health. In fact, they show significant positive health effects and some evidence even links these natural trans fats to reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer.

According to the review, naturally occurring trans fat has a different fatty acid profile than industrial trans fat, which contributes to its different physiological effects. Ruminant trans fat is naturally occurring and found in meat and dairy foods, while industrial produced trans fat is a component of partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, which have been strongly associated with cholesterol and coronary heart disease.

Consumers are bombarded on a regular basis about what they should and shouldn't eat. Quite often fat is the primary target of what to avoid and trans fats in particular have a negative reputation.

"A change in how trans fat information is presented on nutrition labels would be a huge step forward," says Proctor, a researcher in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science who

is director of the Metabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases Laboratory at the U of A. "Right now, in Canada and the U.S., a substantial portion of natural trans fats content is included in the nutrition label trans fats calculation, which is misleading for the consumer. We need a reset in our approach to reflect what the new science is telling us."

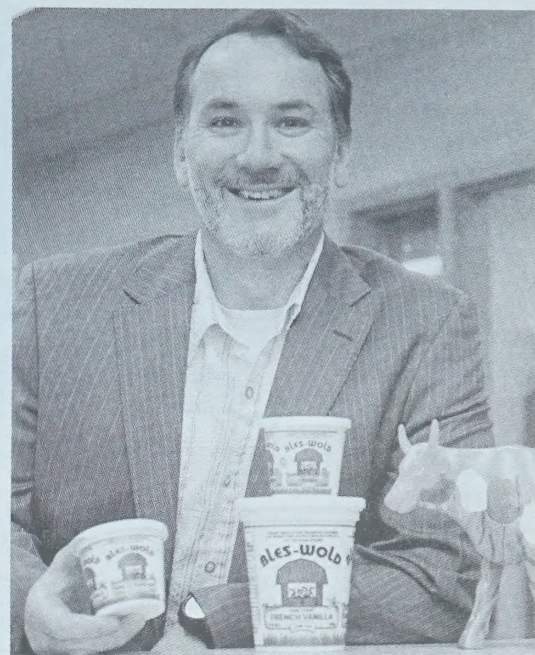
Spencer adds that in some European countries, natural trans fat is not included in the nutrition label calculation. Another approach may be to have separate listings for industrial trans fats and natural trans fats.

Researchers evaluated an evidence base from numerous studies in the review. Based on the promising findings to date, plans for new studies are gaining momentum to further investigate the health implications of natural ruminant-derived trans fats.

One leading scientific program headed by Proctor was recently approved for a \$1 million research grant from the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency to further this line of study over the next several years.

"With industry, the science community, regulators and other important groups in this area working together, we can continue to make strides to help the public better understand the health implications of natural ruminant trans fats," says Proctor.

The scientific review on natural trans fats was published in *Advances in Nutrition*. ■



ALES researcher Spencer Proctor says food labelling should reflect the fact not all trans fats are bad for you.

McCalla professor fans the academic fire within

Jamie Hanlon

Alberta School of Business Professor Jennifer Jennings knows a little something about being inspired as an undergraduate by research.

While completing her bachelor of commerce degree at Carleton University, Jennings was approached by her professor to work as his research assistant, a stint that required her to undertake an analytical assessment of a statistical technique to determine whether it would be applicable to the research he was conducting.

"I had to read all the papers and come up with annotations for him," she said. "That was a pretty cool research project to be involved in as a BComm student. It was very different from the typical case studies that we would normally be doing."

And so it is that Jennings, as a winner of the 2011 McCalla Professor Award, makes a good on a promise to herself to create similar opportunities for her students, especially her female students. The McCalla professorship provides recipients, considered by their facul-

ties to be outstanding academics who have made significant contributions to their field of research and to teaching and learning, and who explore and implement strategies that integrate their research and teaching.

Jennings feels the award is an affirmation of her dedication to her classes and her students, but she is grateful that for the opportunity to engage and inspire her students through the research element.

"It's rewarding to have my work recognized by my peers—that is very meaning-

ful," she said.

Jennings notes that her undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in a number of research-based initiatives, including tabling data collected from an online survey of the effects of a family business background on the cognitive and affective perceptions of entrepreneurship. Jennings also hopes to engage a student for an article she will be writing on the effects of business ownership on families. She sees opportunities for undergraduates to work with one of her doctoral students who will be comparing the experiences of non-family managers working within

family-owned firms.

Jennings says she has also changed her mind on how she will approach one of the original plans she had with the professorship, and it's a move that will affect a couple of her students significantly. "Two of my female doctoral students are off to Australia next January to present at a women's entrepreneurship conference," she said. "I thought to myself this summer, 'they should be the ones having this experience.'"

Jennings willingly plays the academic devil's advocate, providing her students with the requisite skills and knowledge for their degrees but also amping up the learning by guiding them on a deeper and more critical understanding of the subjects, using research-based materials. Reflecting on the academic awakening she had as an undergraduate, she feels obligated to give her students a balanced view of the opportunities that are open to them, especially those who hearts and ambitions lie in a domain that others may not appreciate.

"That incident (at Carleton), in retrospect, meant so much to me that I don't think it would be responsible of me to not provide that for others," said Jennings. "I'd hate to not ignite the fire in those handful who are here and maybe want to see the subject matter from a different standpoint." ■



Jennifer Jennings

Writer-in-residence

Continued from page 1

Yet the fear of being a published author seemed to subside when publishing houses began calling him seeking material. Soon after came *A Man Called Raven*, then another children's book, a short story anthology, and a book called *Welcome Song for Baby*, which was given to all newborns in British Columbia in 2008 by the Books for B.C. Babies program.

Van Camp has been occupied over the last decade with writing, reading and mentoring others. He says the trick to writing is for the writer to be open to when the spirit of the story calls to them.

"As writers, as creators, we're channelers, and the key is to be open because when you're hunting a story and a story is hunting you," he said. "The key is to honour the spirit of that story."

As the Department of English and Film Studies writer-in-residence, Van Camp will provide guidance and advice to students, professors and members of the general public, and will help launch the "Creative Writing Towards Literacy" partnership project between the University of Alberta and Learning Centre Literacy Association at Boyle Street Community Services.

Regardless of who he is working



Richard Van Camp is the U of A's new writer-in-residence. (Supplied photo)

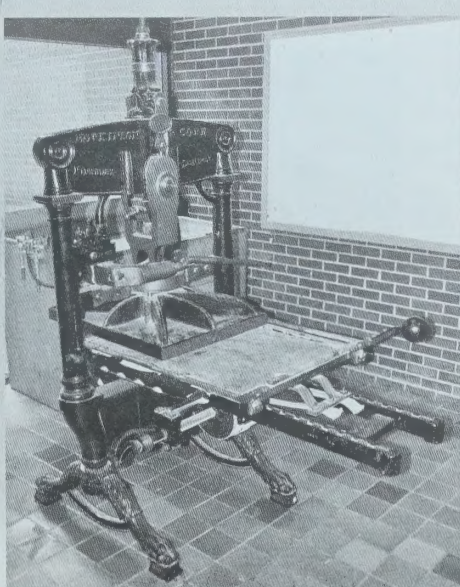
with, Van Camp knows the formula that he will offer to the aspiring writers in that project. "I want them to dare themselves to write the story of their dreams," said Van Camp. "You're not going to break anything. Chances are you're not going to hurt anybody."

"The beauty of fiction is you can fix things in your stories that may be broken in life. You can do in your fiction what you would never dare dream of doing in real life." ■

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Donna Felidichuk, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Sept. 9 "Are You a Winner?" contest. She correctly identified the photo in question as being the Living Wall in the Tory Business Atrium. For her correct identification, Felidichuk has won a stainless-steel coffee mark and an impressive U of A bookmark.

Up for grabs this week is a swanky green U of A golf shirt. To win it, simply identify where the object pictured is located and email your answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Sept. 30, and you will be entered into the draw.



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ALBERTA



Quad was the scene of some last-minute preparation in advance of the 2011 Alumni Weekend Sept. 22.

Month of events and openings showcases the university's determination

Indira Samarasekera
President and vice-chancellor

Three weeks in and the new year is now well underway. Welcome back! This September has been an eventful month, with the official opening of the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science today (Sept. 23) and the celebration of Alumni Weekend, which began Sept. 22 with the Alumni Awards ceremony. And, on Sept. 16, our annual celebration of teaching, learning and research, Celebrate!, was held in the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

All of these events are both inspiring and gratifying. They remind us in

powerful ways that the faculty, staff and students of the University of Alberta are not only setting goals but achieving them, and are doing so in ways that have a visible, measurable impact on communities. This is not just rhetoric. At the Alumni Awards ceremony, awards were bestowed on individuals who, in addition to striving for excellence in their own careers, have founded and/or led professional associations, philanthropic foundations, voluntary organizations and humanitarian missions. They have driven major change in agriculture, digital design, health-sciences education and Aboriginal communities. I am proud that they are such dedi-

cated and effective leaders, and that our university played a small role in their development.

the open door

With the Sept. 23 opening of CCIS, we celebrate the culmination of our efforts in another way. Over the last several years, through the development of our

vision and academic plans, we have set important goals for delivering first-class 21st century post-secondary education and we have committed to engineering interdisciplinary modes of learning and research. The opening of CCIS marks a key milestone in the achievement of these goals.

Within CCIS, researchers and students in all scientific disciplines are studying and working side-by-side, facilitating interdisciplinary exchange. If you haven't yet

toured the building, I urge you to request a tour with one of the 63 volunteer CCIS Student Ambassadors. Their enthusiasm will tell you a lot about what this building means to them.

It's been a great start to the year. Many thanks to the staff and faculty involved in making the events of this week a success and for showcasing the U of A's story so effectively to alumni, government and other key partners of the university. ■

University wholly committed to community consultation

Michael Brown

In an effort to better ensure transparency and information flow, university officials renewed the institution's commitment to enhance dialogue with its neighbours during a regular bimonthly meeting with the University of Alberta Consultation Committee held on South Campus Sept. 14.

Representatives from the 10 communities that neighbour the U of A heard the university relations team outline a list of five commitments designed to better engage communities in the consultation process.

Besides renewing the university's participation in the formal consultation meetings that have been held five to six times per year, Anastasia Lim, executive director, university relations, said the university will meet with the presidents of each community league, hold individual community meetings to discuss specific issues as necessary, create smaller working groups to address specific concerns that involve the university within a given community, and hold two open houses in the fiscal year.

"We want to enhance the consultative process and have better relationships and community engagement with the surrounding communities," said Lim. "We want to be able to ask, 'what's going on in your community, where can we share information and how do we work together?'"

Lim says transparency will be at the core of community outreach.

"Unfortunately, we're not going to be able to do everything the communities suggest—that is just a reality of the university's growth—but we are open to discussion and open to considering ideas brought to the table," said Lim. "We do take into consideration feedback and ideas from open houses,

surveys and focus groups."

Lim says that the university needs the capacity and infrastructure to support institutional and provincial goals and measure the public's expectations that the U of A will continue to be a top teaching and research institution while helping to advance the capital region.

"Planned growth and development helps us attract further talent, whether it be students, faculty, staff or researchers, which is so important as we advance in our mission and work to meet the future needs of the province and its citizens," she said.

To further open lines of communication with community stakeholders, Lim says the U of A is also working on making the university's community relations web presence more user-friendly and client-focused, while ensuring information is readily available and accessible. She says the university also wants to encourage the surrounding communities to participate in university events beyond the realm of development. Lim says she hopes the outcome of the U of A's renewed commitment to consultation is greater trust.

"Ultimately, we are neighbours and we want to maintain good neighbour relations," said Lim. "I believe an open dialogue is key to that."

The UACC was created in 1999 and is made up of a maximum of two members from each of the university's 10 neighbouring communities—Malmo Plains, Lansdowne, Grandview, Garneau, Windsor Park, McKernan, Belgravia, Parkallen, Lendrum and Bonnie Doon. Delegates from the university and the committee members meet bimonthly as a way for university and to community leaders to engage in dialogue about current and future development and to exchange information about what is happening in the communities. ■

Jamie Hanlon

When it comes to making Edmonton a better place to live, work and

play, change starts here. That's the message University of Alberta business school professor and 2011 United Way Campaign chair Mike Percy wants to share with the university community. As one of the largest employers in the capital region, the university's success is inextricably tied to the vibrancy and health of the greater Edmonton community, he says.

"We have a shared stake in a vibrant city where people don't fall between the cracks," he said. "What you want is the ability to have access to the things that allow them to achieve their full potential. And the United Way really does that."

The university community has a number of partnerships with several United Way-funded agencies, such as Boyle Street Community Services and the Youth Emergency Shelter Society, and Percy says those relationships are very important. He notes that U of A

President Indira Samarasekera's vision for the university focuses on engagement with the community and that, given the types of organizations that the United Way supports, every dollar donated has a ripple effect through the community.

Samarasekera, in offering her support to the campaign, echoes Percy's comments regarding the breadth of effect that donations to the United Way have on the community as a whole. "The 2011 U of A United Way campaign gives us an opportunity to consider the great number of social challenges that we see and feel every day in our community," she said.

"As community leaders, we know colleagues, friends and students who have extensive challenges, and who may need support from United Way's partner organizations."

Percy says there are generally three reasons why people support the United Way. Whether because of a rational view of the personal benefit of donating, being part of an organization with strong values and beliefs in corporate social responsibility, or perhaps from personal experiences with agencies, Percy says, for him, all three apply. Following



Mike Percy



We want to know what you were up to this summer

Send folio a high-resolution photo that tells the story of your summer adventures, misadventures or time spent relaxing and we will use it in a future Back Page photo story. Send entries to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by Sept. 30.

Dinosaurs of a feather stick in amber

Brian Murphy

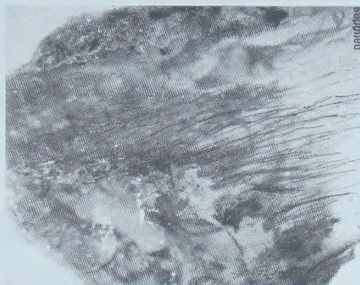
Secrets from the age of the dinosaurs are usually revealed by fossilized bones, but a University of Alberta research team has turned up a treasure trove of late Cretaceous feathers, which have been discovered trapped in tree resin.

The resin turned to resilient amber preserving some 80-million-year-old protofeathers, possibly from non-avian dinosaurs, as well as plumage that is very similar to modern birds, including those that can swim under water.

Paleontology graduate student Ryan McKellar discovered a wide range of feathers trapped in amber in collections at the Royal Tyrrell Museum and in the private collection of the Leuck

family in Medicine Hat.

"Most of the feather specimens were probably blown into contact with the sticky surface of the resin and encapsulated by subsequent resin flows," said McKellar.



A feather from the late Cretaceous trapped in amber.

"The amber preserves microscopic detail of the feathers and even their pigment or colour," said McKellar. "I would describe the colours as typically ranging from brown to black." During the late Cretaceous, southern Alberta

was a warm coastal region. "The trees that produced the resin were probably comparable to the redwood forests of the Pacific Northwest," said McKellar.

No dinosaur or avian fossils were found in direct association with the amber feather specimens, but McKellar says comparison between the amber and fossilized feathers found in rock strongly suggest that some of the Grassy Lake specimens are from dinosaurs. The non-avian dinosaur evidence points to small theropods as the source of the feathers.

McKellar says that some of the feather specimens can take on water, enabling the bird to dive more effectively and are very similar to those of modern birds like the Grebe, which are able to swim underwater.

"The preservation of microscopic detail and pigmentation has provided a unique snapshot of feathers and their uses in the late Cretaceous forests of Alberta," said McKellar.

The U of A team's research was published Sept. 15, in the journal *Science*. ■

TLEF grant used to give med students alternative on the medicine education

Michael Brown

Complementary and alternative medicine, such as therapeutic massage, acupuncture and herbals, are used by many Canadians, but two University of Alberta professors are trying to correct what they see as a dearth of focus on complementary and alternative medicine material.

In an effort to give health-science students a good grounding in a wide range of medical alternatives currently in use, Sunita Vohra and Sarah Forgie, professors in the Department of Pediatrics, have used funding received from the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund to create a complementary and alternative medicine introductory course to offer an opportunity for health-sciences students to work in co-operative, interdisciplinary teams,

applying theoretical alternative medical knowledge to real-world scenarios.

"While Health Canada suggests that 70 per cent of Canadians use complementary and alternative medicine, also known as CAM, we have little formal teaching in this area for most health sciences students," said Vohra. "What we have learned through our preliminary work in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry is that students want an opportunity to meet CAM providers and ask them questions."

To bridge the gap between alternative-medicine providers and health sciences, the faculty organized the first CAM Fair in 2010. The fair was so well received that Vohra and Forgie made a proposal to the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund to develop curriculum for the health-sciences students. Vohra and Forgie's team are

"While Health Canada suggests that 70 per cent of Canadians use complementary and alternative medicine, we have little formal teaching in this area for most health sciences students."

Sunita Vohra

working with faculty members from a variety of health-sciences disciplines to help develop the course this fall. The first group of students will receive the curriculum in January, with the CAM Fair planned for March 2012.

"In a case-based fashion, students will work through the kinds of scenarios real-life patient care involves, where they need to understand and appreciate the differences in knowledge, skills and expertise they each bring to the table—pharmacy, nursing, medicine, dentistry and rehab medicine—as well

as interact with CAM providers at the 2012 CAM Fair to find the answers to the case scenarios," Vohra said.

Vohra says the team will evaluate the effectiveness of the new curriculum in terms of how the students learn to work with each other, as well as what they learn about CAM and themselves as future health-care providers.

She adds she and Forgie are delighted to have this opportunity to develop an interdisciplinary cur-

riculum, with a goal to help students prepare for their future roles in way that is respectful to each other as well as to their patients.

"We strongly believe that optimal patient care is both evidence-based and patient-centred, and takes into account patient values, beliefs and health-related preferences when developing a plan of care," she said.

The TLEF fund, launched in 2006, is a key initiative in support of the U of A's *Dare to Deliver* vision document. The purpose of the fund is to support those engaged in teaching at the university, allowing them to improve their teaching skills, enhance their understanding of teaching and learning processes and provide teaching environments to optimize the student experience. ■

Partnership helps kidney patients in Mexico

Quinn Phillips

Nurses in rural Guadalajara are running kidney-disease screening clinics, similar to those in northern Alberta.

It took one trip to Guadalajara for Marcello Tonelli to realize he needed to try and help people in the region who were suffering from kidney disease.

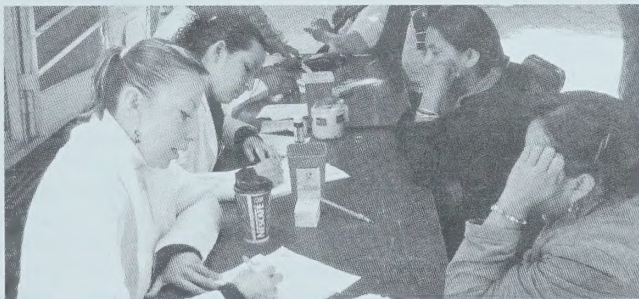
Tonelli, a researcher in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and Canada Research Chair in optimal care for people with chronic kidney disease, says that non-communicable diseases like diabetes and heart disease, which often lead to kidney failure, are the biggest health problems facing developing countries. These problems are especially severe in Mexico, which has some of the highest rates of obesity and diabetes in the world.

In response to these problems, Tonelli partnered with fellow kidney doctor Guillermo Garcia at the Hospital Civil in Guadalajara to start an initiative aimed at helping these patients.

With money from the University of Alberta and the Hospital Civil Foundation in Guadalajara they bought and equipped a van to travel to remote areas and set up kidney-disease screening clinics. So far, more than 10,000 people have been screened.

"[Mobile clinic health-care workers] do blood work, check blood pressure and other screening tests," said Tonelli. "If they find an abnormality then nurses refer the patient in for care at the clinic."

This is where Tonelli's expertise comes in. As a kidney specialist himself, he



Patients in Guadalajara, Mexico attend a kidney-disease screening clinic.

was already familiar with renal clinics in Northern Alberta, which are run by nurses in an effort to prevent further progress of kidney disease. Along with Garcia, the team translated treatment protocols into Spanish and trained nurses to look after patients in prevention of kidney disease, who now run the clinics like their Alberta renal clinic counterparts.

"This clinic has made a lot of difference in the care of chronic kidney disease patients," said Garcia, who is making his first trip to Edmonton and the University of Alberta this week. "It is led by a nurse rather than a doctor, which is unthinkable in Mexico, but we get a good response. The nurses get the best reports regarding patient satisfaction."

Garcia was recently in Edmonton to meet with other kidney specialists and administrators in the community. He has already sent seven of his residents north for training, of whom Ricardo Orozco Castellanos is one, and he just wrapped up his fellowship this summer.

"It is very interesting to see the whole treatment go through because in Mexico the government cannot

afford to sponsor the treatments," said Castellanos. "You cannot see the whole process in Mexico."

"They come here and see what prevention looks like," said Tonelli. "They come here and see patients that are healthier because they're not at death's door when they come in. They see how nurses are empowered to run things on their own without input from a physician. They see a focus on prevention as opposed to end stage disease care."

Tonelli and Garcia are currently working on converting one of the screening vans into a mobile clinic that can provide on-site treatment because Tonelli says that many people are found to have kidney disease but cannot afford to travel into the city to receive care.

For Garcia, the hope is his partnership with the U of A can expand to other specialties like infectious disease or oncology.

"The International Society of Nephrology has listed the 10 leading nephrology programs in Latin America and one of them is my program; I owe that to the partnership with the U of A." ■

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Capturing the construction of the CCIS building one brick at a time



Brian Murphy

Over the four years it took to build the University of Alberta's newest building, the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science, the only person on campus who decided to document the construction in photographs didn't even own a camera.

Bill Burris, an electronics technician with the U of A's Department of Physics, came up with the idea in 2006 when it was announced his campus workplace would have to make way for CCIS.

The occasion prompted Burris to buy his first camera, a simple point-and-shoot Canon. His first photo project: taking pictures of his former home, the Centre for Sub Atomic Research, as it fell to the wrecking ball.

"I'd always wanted to take up photography," said Burris. "I also thought this would be a good way to look back and see how things change over time."

Burris, a U of A employee for more than 30 years, decided to keep clicking away as the



Bill Burris documented the four-year construction of the new CCIS with close to 5,000 photos.

campus landscape changed before his eyes. In the course of documenting the construction of CCIS Burris had some bad luck with his cameras.

"I went through a couple of point-and-shoot cameras because I kept stuffing them in my pockets," said Burris. His first camera received irreparable lens scratches. His second camera suffered a major mechanical failure. "I left it on while it was in my pocket and the gears for the zoom lens burned out," said Burris.

Burris has some experience with sensitive technical equipment. His day job involves building very complicated electronic equipment for U of A physics experiments. Among the devices Burris has worked on are detectors that measure the near speed-of-light collisions

of atoms inside the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Burris has also built electronics for the U of A's research into dark matter being carried out deep underground in Sudbury, Ontario.

"I really enjoy the variety of work at the university," said Burris. "It's always challenging to see that the researchers put the equipment to good use."

Making sure his camera's were put to good use, Burris says he took close to 5,000 pictures of what would be his new home and along the way he learned about the art of photography. "I didn't really consult the manuals, I just experimented and kept trying to take better pictures," said Burris.

To see Burris' CCIS photo collection, go to www.flickr.com/photos/billburris/sets/72157600369544765/.



Brian Murphy and Bill Burris

CCIS by the numbers

- Approximately 244 km of conduit (approximately the distance from Edmonton to Didsbury on Highway 2)
- 731 km of wire (approximately the distance from Edmonton to Regina)
- 17,700 lamps (If you were to take one minute to install a lamp it would take 295 hours to install them or 37 days working 8 hours per day).
- 1290 km of plumbing piping
- 825,000 cubic feet of concrete
- 90,000 square feet of exterior glass (almost two Canadian football fields worth)
- 136,000 square feet of interior glass (almost three Canadian football fields)
- Over 1,500 doors
- 2,200 lecture theatre seats and writing tablets

Law prof plucks way to Kentucky state banjo championship

Folio Staff

When Bruce Ziff returned from his research trip to Kentucky he brought back more than archival materials. During a weekend break from his study of cave disputes in south-central Kentucky, Bruce entered—and won—the official Kentucky State old-time banjo championship, at a contest held in Roughs of Rough, Kentucky. He is the Canadian to win this title.

Ziff plays a traditional style of banjo known as clawhammer, a method of playing that pre-dates bluegrass. There was a strong field in the old-time category including one former champion. Past winners include recording artist Dan Rothwell.

The professor in the Faculty of Law plans to return to Kentucky in early October to continue his research. He is also currently working on his first CD.

Canadian scientist to receive honorary degree at CCIS opening

Folio staff

In recognition of the outstanding contributions Art McDonald has made on a global scale in the field of particle astrophysics, the University of Alberta will bestow on him an honorary degree during the opening celebrations of the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science Sept. 23.

McDonald's work has propelled Canada onto the world stage of particle astrophysics through innovative collaboration at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, known as the SNO-LAB Institute. His early research involved the use of the nucleus as a laboratory for the investigation of fundamental symmetries and interactions in particle physics. After 12 years at

the Chalk River Nuclear Laboratories of Atomic Energy Canada, he accepted a professorship at Princeton University and continued his research program there as co-principal Investigator of the Princeton Cyclotron. In 1989 he accepted a position at Queen's University as professor of physics and director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, and he is currently the Gordon and Patricia Gray Chair in Particle Astrophysics and associate director of the SNOLAB Institute.



Art McDonald

He has led a \$100-million research program in co-operation with Canadian, British and American scientists. Their work with neutrinos, the second most-common particle in the universe after photons, ultimately proved that neutrinos have mass and change character as they travel through the sun. There is increasing

evidence that neutrinos play a very central role in the evolution of the cosmos.

McDonald is an officer of the Order of Canada and a fellow of the American Physical Society, the Royal Society of Canada and the Royal Society of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Canadian Association of Physicists Medal for Lifetime Achievement in Physics and the Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering.

University Chancellor Linda Hughes is delighted to have the opportunity to bestow the honorary doctorate during the opening of the CCIS, noting McDonald's "unique and outstanding contributions to learning, discovery and citizenship."

The opening celebrations and conferral ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. in the atrium of the CCIS.

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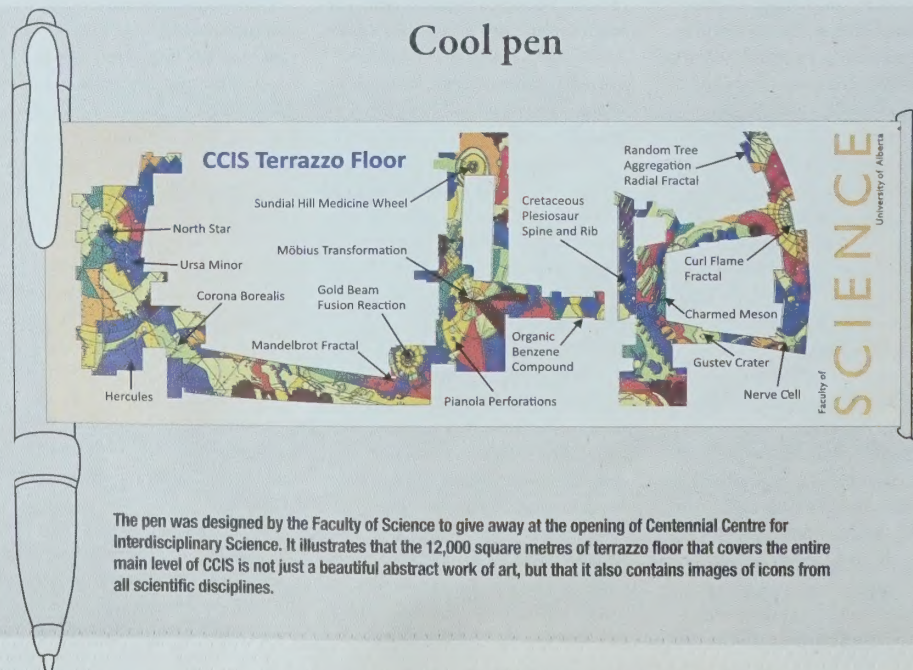
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Cool pen



The pen was designed by the Faculty of Science to give away at the opening of Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science. It illustrates that the 12,000 square metres of terrazzo floor that covers the entire main level of CCIS is not just a beautiful abstract work of art, but that it also contains images of icons from all scientific disciplines.

Engineers Without Borders fellowship gives student front-line experience

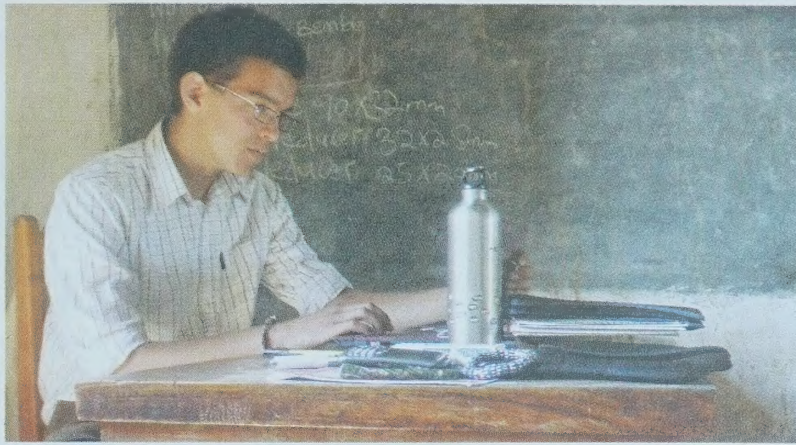
Richard Cairney

When he first began studying engineering at the U of A, Fraser Mah couldn't have guessed that he'd end up spending a summer in Malawi trying to solve water-supply issues in rural towns and villages.

As a member of the U of A chapter of Engineers Without Borders, Mah spent the past four months on the program's junior fellowship in the Rumphu and Mzimba districts, helping to determine community financing formulas to repair bore holes for water wells that had stopped working. Essentially, his job involved meeting with local authorities and finding out how much money their town or village could reasonably contribute to repairing the well. That information would then be passed along to another agency that would move the repair projects along.

But it turns out, the job wasn't as straightforward as it sounds—myriad differences from one town to the next, economic influences beyond the control of local committees, quality of water and local politics all came into play.

"There were salinity issues with the water in one district," said Mah, who is in his final year of civil and environmental engineering. "I talked to



Engineering student Fraser Mah works on a report.

the local water committee and they really didn't want to repair the well because the water is too salty, even though the next one is as far as a kilometre away. Through the questions we asked, we kind of teased out the fact that they didn't want it repaired because of the water quality.

"In other cases, there would be a bore hole that needed repair even though there was a working one 50 metres away, so there was no

incentive to have it fixed."

Other factors, such as the market price for tobacco crops, introduce uncertainty into the amount of money a community could contribute to bore hole repairs, says Mah, but just because the task of finding a dollar figure a community could raise was more complicated than anticipated doesn't mean it's impossible.

"It is really a lot more complicated and it

came to the point where we thought, 'Maybe there isn't such a number,' and that facet of my research became looking at the idea of a checklist or set of criteria instead of trying to fit a round peg through a square hole, so we could think of something like, 'If the population is this number, then they can raise one amount, depending on the time of year and when crops have come in.'

Mah says that, while the work doesn't fit with traditional definitions of what engineering is, he definitely applied skills he has learned through classes and Engineers Without Borders to the job.

"When people ask me where the engineering was, my answer is that it was everywhere. We tackle complex systems and engage with stakeholders and address a huge number of variables. In terms of what we do in the classroom it is different, but the skills we use are so important.

"I felt that the research I was doing could have been a master's program," said Mah. "It has been really cool exposure to that sort of thing and it has piqued my interest in the confluence of engineering, sociology, anthropology, public policy and governance and where all those things overlap. I think there is a lot more potential for engineers to get involved in that multidisciplinary sphere." ■

Animal-health students forge partnership with humane society

Ken Mathewson

The first two graduates of the recently implemented animal health program has teamed up with the Edmonton Humane Society to help pet owners provide better care for their animals.

Rebecca Proulx and Alicia Glasier designed 13 new kinds of pamphlets for the society, which are designed to educate pet owners on caring for their animals.

The pamphlets, which were part of their senior capstone course, cover a wide range of topics, from basic care of cats, dogs, birds, rabbits and ferrets, to the roles and intentions of the society and the basic details of the Animal Protection Act.

"We visited the humane society to try and assess how we could help and, after riding along with the protection officers, we saw that they had trouble getting into people's houses," said Glasier. "The residents won't often answer the door because they have this misconception that the officers are dogcatchers and that they've come to take their animals away, so we thought we might design some materials to leave with the pet owners to help them consider what behaviours they needed to change."

The students said they were surprised to discover that the majority of complaints the officers responded to involved malnutrition and unintentional negligence rather than physical abuse of animals, which suggested to them that most problems stemmed from owners not knowing how to care for their animals, as opposed to any kind of malice.

Craig Wilkinson, chair of the bachelor of science in animal health program committee, says that, in addition to helping the society, local animals and their owners, the experience may prove invaluable for the students because getting a first-hand view of the shelter, the cases and the people involved in them will help them appreciate the numerous factors involved in animal welfare.

"It's important for students in animal health to understand the material presented in their courses," he said, "but it's also essential that they have a real feet-on-the-ground understanding of the complexity involved in animal welfare cases."

"We're just in the initial stages of developing this relationship," he added, "but other courses, such as the introductory course in animal health and the companion animal behaviour class, are also going to be interacting with the Humane Society so we're looking forward to being able to collaborate in a number of different areas."

Shawna Randolph, communications director for the humane society, said the organization is excited about the potential for further collaboration with the animal health students, and was confident that the materials developed



Animal health grads Alicia Glasier and Rebecca Proulx developed 13 kinds of pamphlets for the Edmonton Humane Society to educate pet owners on caring for their animals.

by Proulx and Glasier would prove effective in helping pet owners.

"They've put together a fabulous information package for us," she said. "It's got great information about who we are and what kinds of services we offer the public, as well as information about what sorts of things potential pet owners should

think about before getting a companion animal, so it's really widely varied and we just love it."

This year, seven students will be taking the same capstone course Glasier and Proulx took. Wilkinson, who teaches the course, said the students will be undertaking another project with the Edmonton Humane Society. ■

Studio Theatre presents



Doug Mertz, as Father Flynn, acts out a scene from 'Doubt, A Parable,' which kicks off Studio Theatre's 2011-12 season. The play runs until to Oct. 1. Evening performances start at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.studiotheatre.ca for show time and ticket information.

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Celebrate! tips hat to those who support learning at the U of A

Bev Betkowski

When the emergency room doctor put his arms around her and gave her a hug, Maria Borges felt honoured.

He'd just found out that Borges had won the University of Alberta's Excellence in Learning Support Recognition Award, and wanted to congratulate her.

"He teased that I knew him when he was just a little baby in medicine," Borges chuckled.

As the program administrator of Undergraduate Emergency Medicine and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Emergency Medicine Residency, Borges spends her days helping a lot of "babies" just starting out on their intensive but exhilarating journeys in medical school and residency. And since she's by their sides for five or six years, they get to know and trust her as she helps them juggle their schedules for all-important medical rotations.

Her patient, considerate dedication to that task earned Borges the award, along with two other 2011 recipients, Melissa Casey of the Faculty of Arts and Jennifer Eigeard, of the Faculty of Education. All three were among outstanding faculty, students and staff recognized at Celebrate!, the university's annual celebration of teaching, learning and research, held Sept. 16 at the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Borges has, for the last nine years of a 22-year career at the U of A, been based in the Department of Emergency Medicine, co-ordinating Year 4 rotations in Edmonton and area hospitals for more than 150 medical students, more than 100 medical residents and 30 emergency medicine residents per year. The gargantuan task involves liaising with staff at each of those sites and juggling both physician and student schedules for optimal convenience.

"It's a real balancing act, which I enjoy."

And, as with the ER doctor who gave her a hug, the very best part of her job is when she sees the students suc-

ceed. "It gives me a sense of pride and accomplishment for what I've done."

Casey, as international student specialist in the Faculty of Arts, finds it rewarding to watch foreign students grow in self-confidence as they evolve from being shy and nervous in their first year, to busy and outgoing by their third year.

"They join groups or projects or study disciplines they would never have dreamed of doing prior to stepping onto campus."

Casey, who holds two degrees in science and arts from the U of A, oversees several international partnerships the faculty has with universities across the globe and each year, and welcomes hundreds of students who come to study at the U of A from Brazil, China, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Spain and the United States.

When they arrive, she greets them (often right at the airport), and during their time here, helps them navigate the challenges of using their English skills, learning a new academic vocabulary, and adjusting to a new culture.

"If we bring students from a different area of the world, I feel we have a responsibility to provide support and services to them." Along the way, Casey tries to remember the small things that matter to each student, "so they don't feel they are getting lost in a crowd."

During her 13 years on campus, Casey grew to love working with students, first through 10 years in the registrar's office working in recruitment, awards and international admissions, then moving to the Faculty of Arts. "There's a certain amount of energy to gain from students. And it's a pleasure to get to know them for a long period of time and watch them grow."

Eigeard's memories of being a student at the U of A are top of mind when she comes to work every day. As undergraduate program administrator in the Department of Secondary Education for three years, she strives to be sensitive to the needs of the many students who call or arrive at her office door, looking for help.

Responsible for setting up course timetables, helping with registration

questions, course access, rosters and related faculty support, Eigeard is always busy.

"Being a former student here, I know how big the U of A can seem. Students can feel so overwhelmed about where to begin their quests for information. I want to get them that information in a timely manner. My goal is to let them know we are welcoming here, and to help them connect with the Faculty of Education, so that they feel like they are a part of the university community."

Eigeard graduated with a science degree from the U of A, majoring in psychology, which comes in handy when connecting with and assisting students who are frustrated or confused with registering and planning their course loads.



(L-R) Maria Borges, Melissa Casey and Jennifer Eigeard.

"We always identify the issue and try to find a solution. Four or five minutes of my time can make all the difference, and it feels good to be able to do that. I love interacting with everyone who comes through my door. It is important that the students in our faculty feel supported. They are our

future educators, and if we can model a supportive environment, then when our students go out as teachers, they've got an example in place that they can pass on.

"When I hear, 'You have been so helpful', I know I am making a difference for the students in our faculty."

Distinguished university professors in a league of their own

Bev Betkowski and Cait Wills

From fields as diverse as political science and medicine, the University of Alberta's newest Distinguished University Professors share something special: an abiding commitment to their work and a deep pride in their students.

"Some of the huge privileges of being a university professor include being able to encounter one generation after another, and in crafting something through your teaching and research," said Janine Brodie, one of three faculty members being named as a Distinguished University Professor for 2011.

Brodie, a professor and Canada Research Chair in Political Economy and Social Governance in the Faculty of Arts, joins two other recipients: Professor X. Chris Le, Canada Research Chair in Bioanalytical Technology and Environmental Health, and professor Marek Michalak, both of the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

The title of Distinguished University Professor is one of the highest honours the U of A bestows on a member of its academic staff. The title is awarded to individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction and scholarship in research, teaching and service to the academy and the community at large.

Brodie, Le and Michalak were among outstanding faculty, students and staff recognized at Celebrate!, the university's annual celebration of teaching, learning and research, on Sept. 16 at the Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Steeped in dinner-table politics from an early age, Brodie has spent her 30-year career challenging staid approaches to political science, first through her early research on gender and politics, and later by cultivating new themes in the study of Canadian political economy, citizenship and social policy.

"In many ways, my research has pushed back against convention, bringing forward theory about how politics makes some people invisible and how we need to bring back the ideals of the public and collective responsibility into thinking about how politics can and should work."

As the author or editor of 12 books, as well as writer of more than 70 journal articles and book



(L-R) Janine Brodie, Marek Malek and Chris Le.

chapters, Brodie hopes her work has contributed to contemporary "public and academic conversations about inequality, gender and social responsibility. Ultimately, the role of a social scientist is to make society better."

And Brodie takes pride in the fact that her former students are doing just that.

Scattered across Canada and around the globe, they are serving at senior levels in their careers, "and out there making a difference." In guiding her graduate students, Brodie has always taken care to give them enough safe space to research the questions that drive them. "It is important to understand that they experience politics in very different ways, to validate those experiences, and to encourage them to improve society through their work."

Le couldn't agree more that educating students means more than rote learning. Instead, he engages the more than 100 trainees he has supervised since joining the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry in 1995, in examining how best that they can contribute to science and society while developing a solid academic base.

"I emphasize promoting excellence in citizenship through discovery learning," he says, through his interdisciplinary research in three faculties: the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, the Faculty of Science and the School of Public Health.

Le concentrates his research on analytical techniques around the chemistry of food and water safety, including detecting the presence of arsenic; currently he and his team are looking at the prevalence of arsenic in rural well water.

"I am in a unique environment, being appointed in three faculties," he says, because "being established in a multidisciplinary learning environment means I benefit from wide areas of study."

"I like to work with young people

of diverse backgrounds. They are active and motivated to succeed. I give the trainees complete freedom to learn, discover and explore. I strive to foster individual interests and creativity with opportunities to interact with peers by hosting conferences and seminars. Through that type of interaction with leaders in the field, the students benefit greatly."

That sense of independence is important to creating a successful mentoring relationship between professor and student, Michalak agrees. "The mentor/mentee relationship is a big commitment," he says. "I meet them once per week, for one hour, in a one-on-one meeting, plus daily interaction. This provides them with uninterrupted attention, and encourages independence and organization," which he believes is crucial to discovery research.

Michalak is a professor in the Department of Biochemistry and the vice-dean (research) in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. That position, which Michalak has held since 2009, allows him the opportunity to put his mentoring skills to work, "helping, influencing and mentoring faculty, in particular young faculty."

Despite "the 3,000 other jobs" Michalak jokes he has, cultivating collaborative relationships with students is one of his most important jobs; the other is research. "I love it; it is the major focus of my life."

All three professors are proud to receive recognition from the U of A for their accomplishments.

As a winner of the Distinguished University Professor award, Michalak says it is a "huge honour" and more: "To me this is a great recognition of what we have done within my team. This is the time where I can constructively contribute something back to the university—to show what I can do for the U of A, rather than what can the university do for me."



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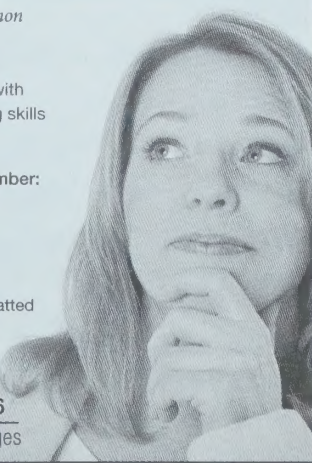
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Distinguished alumni honoured at dinner

Folio Staff

Four of the University of Alberta's brightest and best were honoured Sept. 22 at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner for their contributions to society and their commitment to living the values they learned as students at the U of A.

John Godel, a U of A professor emeritus in pediatrics is a physician respected for his contributions to pediatric health care in remote Canadian and African communities.

From 1969 to 1978, Godel worked in Africa as a consultant and chief of pediatrics. While there, he championed the refurbishment of a military hospital and organized pediatric, maternal and child health services.

Godel returned to Edmonton in 1978 as a U of A professor and chief of pediatrics at the Charles Cammell Hospital. During this time, Godel developed a passion for Canada's North and travelled there frequently to provide health care to Aboriginal children, mentor medical stu-

dents and residents, and conduct research.

Claire Martin is an award-winning weather forecaster and educator. A native of England, Martin's love for weather began with a geography course she took while earning a math and science degree from the University of Reading. "I like the fact that it's always around you," she says, "and then you come to a country like this, where the sky is absolutely endless, and the possibilities for weather are also absolutely endless."

But to advance in meteorology she needed a degree from a Canadian university, which prompted her to enrol at the U of A in 1993. She values her time on campus and has high praise for her professors. "When you're a mature student," she says, "you appreciate the quality of what you're learning."

Tom Radford, who recently won a Gemini Award for *Code Breakers*, is a distinguished documentarian who has played a pivotal role in Canada's film industry, inspiring an entire generation of filmmakers. Radford graduated from

the U of A with a bachelor's degree in history in 1966, which he says "was a very exciting time."

"My professor, Lewis Gwynne Thomas, really brought Western Canadian history to the forefront. He realized the importance of our own history, and that for me was the set-up for making movies about our history."

Marguerite Trussler, retired Justice of the Court of Queens Bench, and Francis Price are highly respected for their leadership in the legal profession and in the arts community. Trussler's legacy lives on in initiatives she helped spearhead, such as Judicial Dispute Resolution and Parenting After Separation, which she credits—along with the introduction of collaborative law in Alberta in 2000—with reducing the number of divorce cases making it to court significantly.

Price is a chartered arbitrator trained to act as an independent or sole chairman on arbitrations involving such things as labour and employment problems to commercial and business disputes. Price also carries on a general litigation practice and has appeared in all levels of the courts of Alberta, the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada. ■



Classic threads sure to be part of the Alumni Weekend nostalgia

Christie Moncrief

As reflective alumni return to the U of A to celebrate their reunions this Alumni Weekend, minds will be cast back to days spent on campus, pondering the whereabouts of long-lost classmates and favourite professors, and laughing at the memorable fashions they sported back in the day.

From beehives to bellbottoms, from platforms to parachute pants, we look back on unforgettable fashions of the '60s, '70s and '80s with the help of couture fashion designer Michael Kaye, '88 BA.

1960s:

The optimism of the Kennedy government in the U.S. and the First Lady herself were highly influential on fashion in the early 1960s. Jackie Kennedy's structured Chanel suits and pillbox hats in pastel hues would become an iconic style.

Even the space race had an effect on fashion. "There were space-age mini-dresses that stood away from the body—they looked like rockets," Kaye says of garments created by French designer André Courrèges.

For women, the '60s marked the beginning of liberated fashion—bright colours, wash-and-wear synthetic fabrics and higher hemlines. "People were getting away from the Father Knows Best, June Cleaver looks of the 1950s," says Kaye.

It was an age of classic silhouettes—capris, culottes, tailored suits, skinny jeans and little black dresses—made popular by Audrey Hepburn in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Many of these styles have resurfaced thanks in part to '60s-set television series *Mad Men*, which recently debuted a line of clothing at mainstream clothing outlets.

1970s:

By the late '60s and early '70s a cultural transition embracing peace and love spawned hippies with free-flowing



While the good times are always in vogue, fashion comes and goes.

hair and gypsy-esque clothing on campuses across North America.

"The Vietnam War and issues with the FLQ [Front de libération du Québec] were ongoing in the early '70s. There was a lot of protesting and anti-establishment, so young people were showing their rebelliousness in their fashion choices," explains Kaye.

Tie-dye, bell-bottoms and sky-high platform shoes were widely popular with both men and women. "Stick-straight hair and very clean looks, à la Marcia Brady, were also very in," recalls Kaye. "And the maxi coat down to the ankles was especially fashionable in Edmonton's climate."

The disco era would take the place of the hippy age in the mid-late '70s. Jersey wrap dresses, polyester three-piece suits, and leotards inspired by the John Travolta film *Saturday Night Fever* were must-haves before a "creation through disorder" punk craze—originating in London—appeared in the latter part of the decade.

1980s:

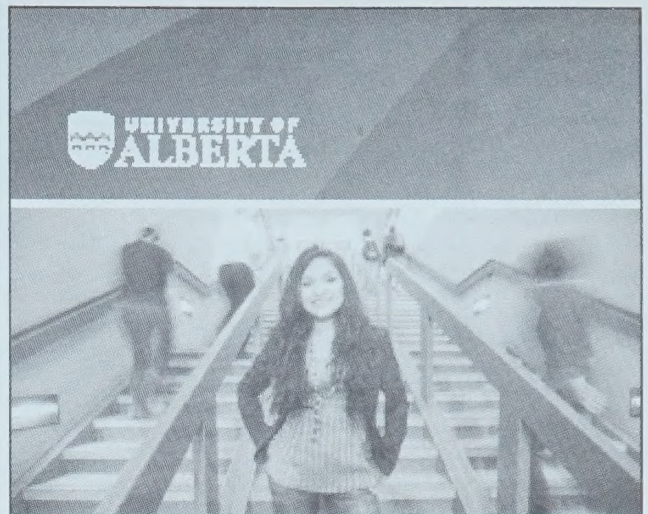
"Ah, the big '80s," recalls Kaye, who spent his days on campus smack dab in the middle of the decade. "Fashion was

all about having money and being rich. More was more."

Mainstream media, including television and music, were highly influential in fashion of the decade. The television series *Dynasty* encapsulated the concept of excess perfectly, featuring power suits; big, feathered hair; shoulder pads and jewels. *Magnum P.I.* inspired men to wear moustaches. Fans of Jane Fonda took spandex leotards, legwarmers and headbands outside of the gym. And for the first time, designer labels became a major status symbol as consumers eagerly flaunted the names of Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein.

Eighties fashions were nothing if not diverse. Running the gamut from New Wave to alternative, from Madonna's street urchin look to popped-collar preppy, there was a style for every taste.

While alumni returning to campus might roll their eyes at the fashion choices of their youth, ironically, students at the U of A today have taken many of their style cues from fashions of yesteryear. Perhaps it's true what Henry David Thoreau once said: "Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new." ■



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ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS):

Input from the Community

Mr. Don Hickey, Vice-President (Facilities and Operations), has advised President Indira Samarasekera that he would like to stand for a third term of office. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Brian Heidecker, President Samarasekera has asked that an Advisory Review Committee for Vice-President (Facilities and Operations) be struck.

UAPPOL provides that members of the university community have an opportunity to contribute to the review process. Individuals are welcome to express their views on the priorities of Vice-President (Facilities and Operations); including current issues, leadership, and the future direction of the Office of the Vice-President (Facilities and Operations). An anonymized summary of the feedback will be provided to Mr. Hickey during the review process. President Samarasekera invites you to submit your comments and/or suggestions by 4:30 pm on October 14, 2011, to:

President Indira Samarasekera
c/o Jackie Wright, Secretary to the Advisory Review Committee
3-1 University Hall
University of Alberta, T6G 2J9
phone: (780) 492-9592 or email: jackie.wright@ualberta.ca

All submissions shall be in writing and must include a written or email signature. Non-tenured faculty, staff, and students may request that their submission be passed to the committee anonymously.

Responsibility for the administration of the review process is housed in the Office of the President. Please note that the membership of the Advisory Review Committee will be confirmed by October 31, 2011, and posted on the President's website at www.president.ualberta.ca.

news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

Attracting the best

Three University of Alberta post-doctoral students have been awarded 2011–12 Banting Post-doctoral Fellowships to pursue research that contributes to Canada's economic and social growth.

Susan Armijo-Olivo, in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, received her fellowship for her research project entitled "Informed decision-making in health care: the impact of research methods on treatment recommendations;" Angela Chow, in the Department of Psychology for "Gendered pathways from youth to mid-life in Canada;" and Dale Spencer in the Department of Sociology for "Missing the mark: The politics and institutional processes of criminal victimization."

"The Banting Fellowships were awarded following a highly competitive national adjudication, and we are delighted that three Banting Postdoctoral Fellows will be working at the University of Alberta for the next two years," said Lorne Babiuk, vice-president (research). "Post-doctoral fellows make a crucial contribution to the research enterprise at our institution, and these Banting awardees will add to the impact of research being done in a wide range of fields."

Sociology department celebrates 50th anniversary

Students, staff, faculty members and alumni gave a salute to the Department of Sociology for their 50th anniversary earlier this month.

The department opened its doors in 1961 with only a handful of sociologists but has grown to 28 full-time faculty members and more than 7,000 students each year. A recent external review ranked the department as one of the top three sociology departments in the country.

"The Department of Sociology is one of the very important departments within the faculty," said Faculty of Arts dean Lesley Cormack. "It's always been, as long as I have been at this university, a source of new and innovative thinking. It was looking at cultural studies and social issues in ways that no one else was in the country and it continues to be at the forefront of the kind of sociological work that is so important to us."

Researcher to test drug's efficacy on breathing problems

On Sept. 13, John Greer and his team in the Department of Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry announced a license and funding deal with California-based Cortex Pharmaceuticals Inc. to study Ampakine drugs more closely and explore commercialization options.

Ampakines have been found to help treat sleep deprivation. Greer want to know how effective these drugs are in stimulating breathing for people on pain medications during and after surgery, and for people with breathing disorders.

All told, Greer, an Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions and Alberta Heritage Foundation For Medical Research scientist, has spent nearly three decades pinpointing how the nervous system controls breathing. Laboratory research led his team to discover that AMPA receptors—little points of communication throughout the central nerve system—are essential to breathing.

"We know that narcotic painkillers given during surgery affect the part of the brain that enables breathing," said Greer. "But we want to better understand why some people receiving painkillers and anesthetics stop breathing altogether."

New rangelands chair sees big opportunities

Edward Bork, who has been named the first Mattheis Chair in Rangelands Ecology and Management, says he wants to help cow-calf producers run economically viable businesses and says that goal may be tied to producers' ability to run sustainable operations that capitalize on efficient beef production and the value of healthy rangeland ecosystems.

"The two go hand in hand," said Bork. "Serious examination is needed of what we can do to create an environment that will improve profitability for the cow-calf industry, including alternative business strategies that currently don't exist."

As it stands now, many cow-calf producers have one primary revenue stream: cow-calf production, with secondary revenue from limited sources, including oil and gas surface leases. Bork has heard from many producers who have told him that without oil and gas revenues, they wouldn't be in operation. Bork believes there are some real opportunities on the horizon.

"As chair, I see my role as being a research facilitator, bringing people together from the public side, industry including primary producers, as well as other major stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations," he said.

University mourns loss of long-time sociology professor

Former University of Alberta sociology professor Lyle Eugene Larson died Sept. 15 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. He was 73.

Born in 1937, in Fairmont, Minn., Larson earned a bachelor of arts degree in theology from North Central University in Minnesota, a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Bethel College in St. Paul, and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Oregon.

He drove Greyhound for several years while being a student, pastored a church in Fairfax, Minn., for a short time, worked as department manager at Sears in Minot, N.D., and then became a professor at the U of A from 1968 until an early retirement in 1995.

During his tenure at the university, Larson enjoyed teaching extension classes in Whitehorse, Yukon, as well as in several Alberta outlying areas. He taught special classes on family and health at two of the Edmonton hospitals. He did extensive volunteer counseling for many years, taught many volunteer community and church classes, and wrote and co-wrote several textbooks and many articles.

A loving family man, Larson's great joy after retiring was driving for seven years, the small school bus for EC CARES in Florence, Or.

U of A degree program a model for Shanghai University of Sport

Sandra Pysklywyc

The University of Alberta's Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation is not only one of Canada's first physical education faculties, but also is a model for both a faculty and new degree program on the other side of the world.

Back in 2006, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and the Shanghai University of Sport to share knowledge and open doors for research and teaching. This memorandum was signed during a visit to the university by a delegation led by the then-dean of the faculty Mike Mahon.

"Our faculty has benefited in so many ways by being a part of the global academic picture," said Tom Hinch, associate dean, community and international engagement, for the faculty. "Having an agreement in place with Shanghai University of Sport allows our students and faculty to collaborate and share ideas."

A visit to the U of A and meetings with physical education and recreation faculty members in 2007 by Wei Zhiqiang, professor at the Shanghai University, left him impressed by the undergraduate bachelor of arts in recreation, sport and tourism degree offered.

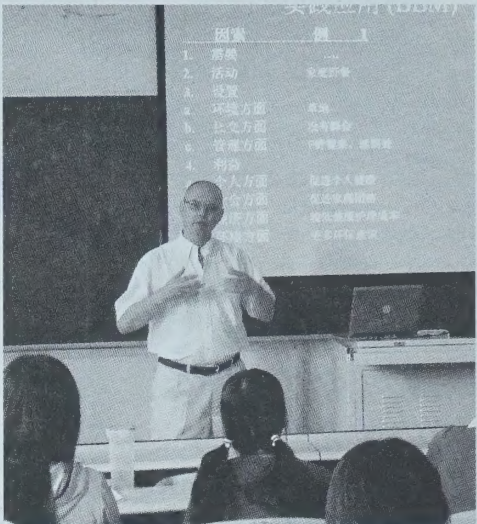
Based on his visit, Zhiqiang returned to China and set the wheels in motion to create a similar faculty and degree program at his university in Shanghai.

Now the dean of the new recreation-focused faculty, Zhiqiang says he is proud of the accomplishments of his university. The new degree program at Shanghai University of Sport was initiated just one year after Zhiqiang's visit to the U of A and will graduate its first cohort of students in 2012.

Zhiqiang says, "recreation and leisure are growing fields in China and we were the first university to offer a degree in this area. We are proud to be the first place to offer this and have received fame from across our country."

"The arrangement has had tremendous benefits to the University of Alberta," said Hinch. For example, having visiting professors on campus provides an opportunity to share thoughts and work together on research projects. In fact, Gordon Walker, professor in physical education and recreation at the U of A, spent several weeks at the university in Shanghai teaching about recreation and leisure.

"I taught two short courses about recreation and leisure within a month and it was a tremendous learning experience to be immersed in the culture, both personally and professionally," said Walker. "Since my visit to China, we are now hosting a visiting professor as well as having several grad students working with our faculty members."



Gordon Walker lectures at the Shanghai University of Sport.

At present, Donging Liu, a member of the faculty in Shanghai, is here for a yearlong visit to learn about leisure in Canada.

Liu has been at University of Alberta since March. He has found many interesting aspects of how recreation and leisure in Canadian society. Based on the research he's conducting while here, he's noticed that "participation of playing sports is quite high in Canada—about 70 to 80 per cent—but in China, participation is about 30 per cent".

Highlights for Liu include "attending classes, travelling around Alberta visiting national parks, and just learning about Canadian culture, recreation and leisure."

Zhiqiang said, "The University of Alberta is famous in Canada and around the world in the field of physical education and recreation and we are proud to be connected to such a fine faculty and institution."

"The partnership between the two universities has proved to be mutually beneficial," said Hinch, and that having this memorandum in place opens so many doors for the U of A's researchers and students for "mutual learning".

"We have had a number of graduate students come over from China and we've had our own faculty members go over to China for short-term visits," which he says are important for providing cultural and academic discussion opportunities. And, looking ahead, Hinch says that "our hope is to offer a study abroad experience in China for undergrads in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation."

classified ads

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Augustana prof longlisted for Giller

Jamie Hanlon

Marina Endicott, a creative writing instructor at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, has received her second Scotiabank Giller Prize nomination for her latest book, *The Little Shadows*.



Endicott, whose second book, *Good to a Fault*, was shortlisted for the Giller Prize in 2008 and won the Commonwealth Writer's Prize best book, says she is pleased to have been nominated again. "It's a beautiful big list of great books, and an honour to be in such good company," she said.

The latest book revolves around three sisters who become Vaudeville singers following the death of their father, and how they navigate through life and the little shadows that hide behind the curtain.

She says that her work at Augustana Campus paid out some interesting dividends in helping the book come together.

"I was lucky enough to have a tour of the old Bailey Theatre in Camrose just as renovations began on the old vaudeville house," she said. "That tour was incredibly useful in the early stages of writing *The Little Shadows*, and [in describing] my vaudeville girls' tour to Camrose in 1915."

Endicott, who is currently working on two new projects, *Hughtopia*,

a contemporary novel about a middle-aged man trying to fix the lives of his friends; and *Difference*, an historical novel set in 1910 about a clipper ship captain's wife who buys a small boy in the south seas, says the process of writing is always a new exploration, one that requires to start from scratch every time.

"Unlike a surgeon who would get better and better at appendectomies, I can't write the same book over and over," said Endicott. "I have to learn how to write each new book."

Yet, despite being an accomplished author in her own right, Endicott sees her work teaching students as not one of professor to eager student, but of a writer in company of other writers. The experience of teaching, she says, is less about delivering knowledge to the class than about sharing and working with each other through the exploration of the creative experience.

"Of course I know more than they do, because I've been working at it longer and thinking about it pretty hard all this time," she said. "But when I write, I still sit down to a blank page and attempt to pull a world out of my head—exactly what they have to do themselves."

"I hope the motivation and encouragement my students get from me comes through our work together."

The Giller Prize shortlist will be announced on Oct. 4. The televised announcement of the winner will be made on Nov. 8. ■

Marina Endicott was longlisted for a Scotiabank Giller for her book *The Little Shadows*. (Supplied photo)

Work on mysterious black holes leads to astronomy award

Brian Murphy

A University of Alberta astronomer has won a prestigious prize for her investigation into an "oddly behaving" type of black hole. Jeanette Gladstone's work sheds new light on the previously unknown lifecycle of mysterious black holes. "Our research could have implications for the role of black holes in the evolution of entire galaxies," she says.



Janet Gladstone

The American Astronomical Society awarded the High Energy Astrophysics Division Dissertation Prize to Gladstone to recognize her outstanding dissertation in high-energy astrophysics from among doctoral dissertations completed worldwide in the last three years.

"We focused our attention on relatively rare black holes that astronomers consider mysteriously over-bright," said Gladstone. Researchers refer to these particular black holes as ultraluminous X-ray sources, or ULXs.

"On one hand, ULXs could be the missing link between stellar-mass black holes, which are the smallest known black holes and have about 10 times the mass of the sun, and super-massive black holes, which are

the largest known, having hundreds of thousands to billions of times the mass of the sun," said Gladstone. There's also an alternative outcome to the research, she says. Gladstone says ULXs could contain a stellar-mass black hole

that is rapidly pulling in more star stuff, surface material from stars, than scientists previously thought possible.

Combining data from XMM-Newton telescope operated by the European Space Agency, NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory & Hubble Space Telescope, and the ground-based Gemini Observatory, Gladstone studied dozens of ULXs that lie within about 30 million light years from the Earth.

"Using the X-ray spectra of a dozen ULXs, we concluded that the black holes in ULXs are more likely to be stellar-mass black holes that are undergoing some of the most extreme activity in our universe," said Gladstone. "Astrophysical models that explain this extreme activity are at the forefront of ongoing research."

Gladstone began this research project while a PhD candidate at Durham University in the United Kingdom. She is now a post-doctoral fellow at the U of A. "I'm hoping to advance my research by trying to calculate the exact mass of black holes contained within ULXs." ■

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, email or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on Express News at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Sept. 26 & 27

2011 R.B. Sandin Lecture Series. Vern Schramm, professor and Ruth Merns Chair of Biochemistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, will deliver this lecture, entitled "Drug Design from Transition State Analysis." 11 a.m.–noon on Sept. 26 and 4–5 p.m. on Sept. 27. CCIS L1-140 Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science.

Until Oct. 1

Studio Theatre presents Doubt, A Parable. This play by John Patrick Shanley focuses on four strong characters in a Catholic school in 1960s New York. Tickets: \$5-\$20, available in person at the Timms Box Office or via Tix on the Square. Timms Centre for the Arts.

Sept. 27

Eric J. Hanson 17th Memorial Lecture. Jack Mintz, director of the School of Public Health at the University of Calgary. 4 p.m.–5 p.m. CCIS L1-140.

Sept. 28–Nov. 2

Questioning Answers and Answering Questions. Every Wednesday people will join together to explore faith issues. Two courses will provide opportunities to journey together toward theology. St. Stephen's College. 9:30 a.m.–noon with George Rodgers and 1:30–4 p.m. with Sandy Prather. For more information, contact

Yan at yhuang1@ualberta.ca or call 780-339-7311.

Sept. 28

Research Colloquium. The Information Practices of People Living with Depression: Constructing Credibility and Authority. Tami Oliphant, SLIS, University of Alberta. Noon–1 p.m., 2-09 Rutherford South.

Department of Economics Micro Seminar. Stefan Kesenne of the University of Antwerp will be on hand to give a talk entitled Can advertising turn free TV more profitable than pay-TV? 3:30–5 p.m. 8-22 Tory Building.

Change: We know what needs to be done, so let's go for it. Chris Kenopic will give this talk that focuses on the empowerment of deaf people. 7–10 p.m. Room 129 Education South.

Sept. 30

Alberta Arts Day Event: Human Trafficking – Exploring the Issue Through Community Performance. This event will examine the role of community performance in raising awareness about social issues. Youth representatives from organizations will perform skits on the topic of human trafficking and share their process and motivation for addressing this issue in their communities. 5:30–9 p.m. Location to be announced.

St. Stephen's College Fourth Annual Chancellor's Gala. Funds

will be directed towards Reaching Out to the inner city community, so that Bissell Center will be able to provide Thanksgiving Dinner to additional families and the Mustard Seed Church to supply more cold weather clothing to those in need. Sutton Place Hotel, 10235 101 Street. For information, contact Kelly at kparson@ualberta.ca or call 780-439-7311.

Oct. 3

J Strother Moore, Distinguished Lecture Series. The Department of Computing Science will host Moore, Admiral B.R. Inman Centennial Chair at the University of Texas, to give a lecture entitled Machines Reasoning about Machines, which looks at the practicality of the vision of reasoning about machines. 3–4 p.m. CSC B-10 Computing Science Centre.

laurels

The Alberta Teachers' Association presented its Educational Research Award to **Robert Klassen**, associate professor in the Faculty of Education. Klassen's research focuses on teacher efficacy, an issue critical to the success of both teachers and students in Alberta classrooms.

Ernie Ingles, vice-provost and director of the School of Library and Information Studies, was awarded an honorary degree from Red Crow College Sept. 16. The award was presented during celebrations marking the college's 25th Anniversary on the Kainai reserve near Cardston. The college conferred upon Ernie the honor-

ary title of Kaaahssinnon, or elder, and the degree of Blackfoot Eminent Scholar Kainai, PhD.

Marina De Rementeria, who teaches Spanish at Campus Saint-Jean, earned the recognition of her students last spring, to win the Students' Union Award for Leadership in Undergraduate Studies. "I don't wish to only teach them a language, I want to introduce them to a world education," said De Rementeria. To reach that goal, she puts in enormous efforts to interest students as much in the language, as in the country where it's spoken, the music of the land and the people who live that language.

Department of Economics

Micro Seminar. David Forrest of the University of Salford will be on hand to give a talk entitled A self-consistent regression model for deriving risk preferences from lottery sales data. 3:30–5 p.m. 8-22 Tory.

Oct. 6

6th Annual Hurtig Lecture featuring. Lawrence Martin, national affairs columnist for the Globe and Mail and Canadian political landscape author, will give a lecture entitled The Decline and Fall of Canadian Democracy. 7–9 p.m. Myer Horowitz Theatre.

Oct. 4

KIAS Masterclass: Undergraduate Research Session One. This workshop series is designed to help undergraduate researchers prepare for dissemination of their academic research. Noon–1:30 p.m. Tory B-129.

Health Sciences Council Speaker Series. Health writer André Picard will be on hand to discuss health-care reform. 4:30–5:30 p.m. L1-190 Edmonton Clinic Health Academy.

Oct. 5

Research Colloquium. Sandy Campbell, U of A public services librarian, will give a talk entitled Creating a Digital Library for a Virtual University—The University of the Arctic. Noon–1 p.m. 2-09 Rutherford South.

FROM THE GROUND UP

Bill Burris, an electronics technician with the U of A's Department of Physics, took it upon himself to capture the construction of the newly minted Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science. All told, Burris, whose department will make its new home in the CCIS, took close to 5,000 photos.

